

**FEATURING:**     ♦ Cattle     ♦ Sheep     ♦ Dairy Products     ♦ Hog Outlook ♦ Catfish

## KENTUCKY CATTLE NUMBERS CONTINUE DECLINE

The **Kentucky** cattle inventory on January 1, 1999 totaled 2.42 million head, 2 percent below the revised January 1998 level of 2.48 million, and 10 percent below the January 1996 peak level for this cattle cycle. Cattle inventory is the smallest since January 1, 1990, when the all cattle inventory was also 2.42 million head. Steers and heifers over 500 pounds for slaughter were above the January 1998 level. Milk replacement heifers and bulls over 500 pounds were unchanged from the previous year. All other classes of cattle showed declines compared with January 1998.

All cow inventory, at 1.24 million head, was 5 percent below 1998 and the smallest cow herd in a decade. Beef cows slipped 5 percent to 1.105 million head. Milk cow inventory totaled a record low 135,000 head, 7 percent below the previous record low set on January 1, 1998.

Heifers over 500 pounds totaled 310,000 head, unchanged from a year ago. Beef heifer inventory, at 150,000 head, was 6 percent below 1998. There were 55,000 heifers for milk replacement on hand January 1, 1999, unchanged from last January, while heifers for other uses totaled 105,000 head, up 11 percent from the previous year. Steers over 500 pounds on hand January 1, were estimated at 225,000 head, 15 percent higher than a year ago. Bulls over 500 pounds were set at 75,000 head, the same as last January. Calves under 500 pounds on hand totaled 570,000 head, a decline of 3 percent from January 1998.

The 1998 calf crop was estimated at 1.16 million head, 3 percent below 1997 and the smallest calf crop since 1990. Cattle on full feed for slaughter totaled 15,000 head, compared with 20,000 head on hand a year ago.

**U.S. class** estimates on January 1, 1999 and the changes from January 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- - **All Cattle**, 98.5 million, down 1 percent and down 3 percent.
- - **All cows and heifers that have calved**, 42.6 million, down 1 percent and down 3 percent.
- - **Beef cows**, 33.5 million, down 1 percent and down 3 percent.
- - **Milk cows**, 9.14 million, down 1 percent and down 2 percent.
- - **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, 19.6 million, down 1 percent and down 3 percent.
- - **Beef replacement heifers**, 5.55 million, down 4 percent and down 8 percent.
- - **Milk replacement heifers**, 4.06 million, up 2 percent and and slightly above two years ago.
- - **Other heifers**, 9.99 million, down 1 percent and down 2 percent.
- - **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.8 million, down 2 percent and down 3 percent.
- - **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.28 million, slightly above and down 3 percent.
- - **Calves under 500 pounds**, 17.2 million, down 1 percent and down 4 percent.
- - **All cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter, 13.2 million, down 3 percent and slightly above two years ago.

# CATTLE AND CALVES NUMBER BY CLASS, CATTLE ON FEED, AND CALF CROP

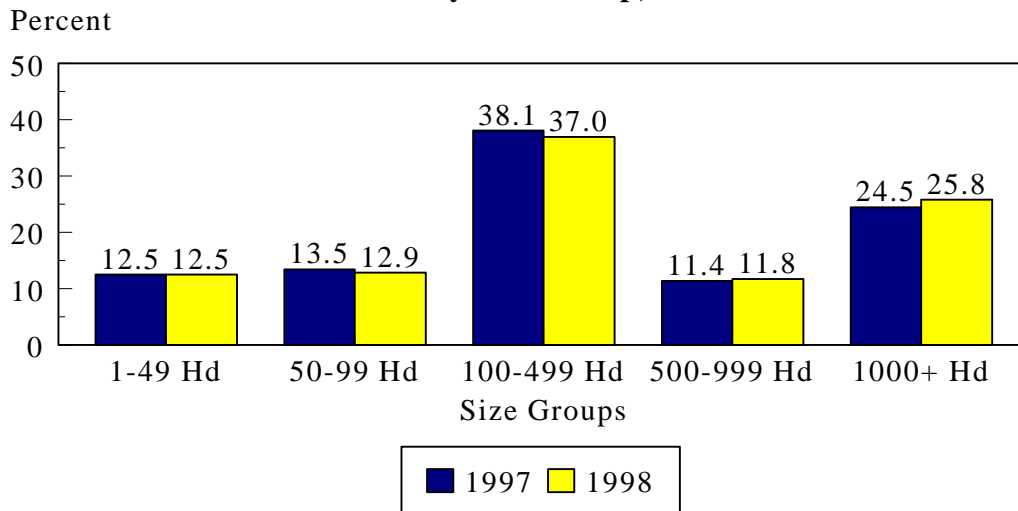
**JANUARY 1, 1998 - 1999**

CLASS	KENTUCKY			UNITED STATES		
	1998 1/	1999	99 % of 98	1998 1/	1999	99 % of 98
	(1,000 Head)			(1,000 Head)		
Cattle and Calves	2,480	2,420	98	99,744	98,522	99
Cows and Heifers (That have calved)	1,310	1,240	95	43,084	42,615	99
Beef Cows	1,165	1,105	95	33,885	33,472	99
Milk Cows	145	135	93	9,199	9,143	99
Heifers 500 lbs & over	310	310	100	19,801	19,604	99
Beef Cow Replacement	160	150	94	5,764	5,550	96
Milk Cow Replacement	55	55	100	3,986	4,060	102
Other Heifers	95	105	111	10,051	9,994	99
Steers 500 Lbs & Over	195	225	115	17,189	16,836	98
Bulls 500 Lbs & Over	75	75	100	2,270	2,276	100
Calves Under 500 Lbs	590	570	97	17,401	17,190	99
Cattle on Feed 2/	20	15	75	13,608	13,214	97
Calf Crop (Preceding Year)	1,200	1,160	97	38,961	38,582	99

1/ Revised. 2/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. Cattle and calves on feed are included in the cattle inventory estimates by classes.

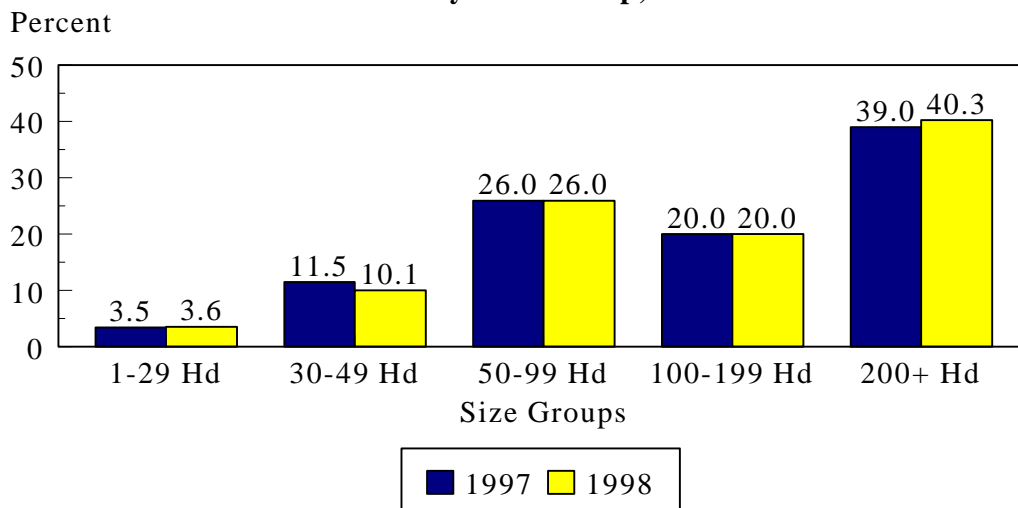
## U.S. CATTLE INVENTORY

**Percent by Size Group, 1997-98**



## U.S. MILK COW INVENTORY

**Percent by Size Group, 1997-98**



## SHEEP INVENTORY DOWN FROM 1998

**Kentucky's** sheep and lamb inventory totaled 21,000 head on January 1, 1999, down 1,000 head from the 1998 total of 22,000. Breeding ewes one year old and older numbered 13,000 head, unchanged from 1998. Lamb crop for 1998 totaled 16,000 head, down 2,000 from the previous year. Market sheep totaled 4,500 head, down 500 from a year ago. Sheep operations numbered 800 during 1998, unchanged from a year earlier.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 1999, totaled 7.24 million head, down 8 percent from 1998 and 10 percent below two years ago. Inventory has declined since 1942 when it reached a peak of 56.2 million head. Breeding sheep inventory declined to 5.31 million head on January 1, 1999, down 5 percent from January 1, 1998's 5.61 million head. Ewes one year old and older, at 4.34 million head, were 5 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 1999 totaled 1.92 million head, down 13 percent from January 1, 1998. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-six percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 17 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 27 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 26 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep.

The 1998 lamb crop of 5.01 million head was down 6 percent from 1997. This compares with the previous record low of 5.36 million head set a year ago. The 1998 lambing rate was 110 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 1998, compared with 109 in 1997.

The number of operations with sheep during 1998 totaled 68,810, down 5 percent from 1997 and 10 percent from 1996.

## U.S. DAIRY PRODUCTS, DECEMBER 1998

PRODUCT	December	November	December	Percent of	
	1997	1998 <u>1/</u>	1998	Dec. 1997	Nov. 1998
(000) Pounds			Percent		
BUTTER	105,970	87,192	101,661	96	117
CHEESE					
American Types <u>2/</u>	278,631	269,693	297,613	107	110
Mozzarella	189,243	204,940	210,018	111	103
All Other Types <u>3/</u>	160,014	160,172	159,975	100	100
Total	627,888	634,805	667,606	106	105
(000) Gallons			Percent		
FROZEN PRODUCTS					
Ice Cream (Hard)	53,945	51,273	55,167	102	108
Frozen Yogurt (Total)	4,685	6,105	5,901	126	97
MIX FOR FROZEN PRODUCTS					
Ice Cream Mix	29,025	28,365	29,376	101	104
Yogurt Mix	2,965	3,864	3,735	126	97

<sup>1/</sup> Revised. <sup>2/</sup> Includes Cheddar, Colby, Monterey, and Jack. <sup>3/</sup> Includes Swiss, cream and all other types. Excludes cottage cheese.

## HOG OUTLOOK

The December Hogs and Pigs report indicates that between September and December producers switched from an expansion to a cutback mode as their losses mounted. The December 1 breeding inventory was 4 percent below a year earlier, the first reduction in the quarterly year-over-year breeding inventory since March 1997. Farrowing intentions reported for December-February were down 1 percent from a year earlier in contrast with a 3 percent increase indicated in September. Because of the previous buildup in the breeding herd, the market hog inventory on December 1 was 2 percent above a year earlier, indicating hog

slaughter will remain above last year through spring.

Hog prices are expected to rebound from the extreme lows of late 1998 and average in the mid \$30's per cwt in 1999. Prices are expected to average considerably higher than a year earlier in the second half of this year as the supply of slaughter hogs declines.

Based on the market hog inventory, pig crops, and farrowing intentions reported in December, pork production in 1999 is expected to total about 18.9 billion pounds, down less than 1 percent from last year.

## CATFISH

There were 33 commercial catfish operations in Kentucky on January 1, 1999. This is up 32 percent from the 25 operations reported a year ago. Catfish growers in Kentucky had sales of \$1,315 thousand in 1998, up 45 percent from \$905 thousand sold in 1997.

Catfish growers in the 15 selected states had sales of 469 million dollars during 1998. These sales were up 10 percent from the 1997 total of 427 million dollars. Sales of all foodsize fish totaled 441 million dollars and were up 8

percent from last year's total of 407 million dollars. Sales of fingerlings and fry totaled 20.2 million dollars, compared with 15.4 million dollars in sales during 1997. Sales of stockers totaled 7.22 million dollars, up from the 4.03 million dollars sold in 1997.

The total number of operations on January 1, 1999 in the 15 selected States was 1,340, up 8 percent from the January 1, 1998 total of 1,243.

### CATFISH: NUMBER OF OPERATIONS AND WATER SURFACE ACRES, 1998 - 99 AND TOTAL SALES, 1997-98

State	Number of Operations		Water Surface Acres		Total Sales	
	Jan 1, 1998 <u>1/</u>	Jan 1, 1999	Jan 1, 1998 <u>1/</u>	Jan 1, 1999	1997 <u>1/</u>	1998
	Number		Acres		1,000 Dollars	
AL	245	250	21,800	21,300	53,740	61,105
AR	165	140	25,000	25,500	55,510	51,141
CA	64	56	2,300	2,000	8,225	7,570
FL	14	31	150	340	352	674
KY	25	33	250	--	905	1,315
LA	101	100	13,500	13,600	30,783	29,438
MS	331	420	100,000	105,000	265,934	306,764
MO	60	45	1,900	1,650	2,022	1,894
NC	53	45	1,300	1,210	2,194	2,436
OK	25	25	450	370	385	385
SC	20	22	1,100	920	2,833	1,894
TN	21	23	290	300	336	280
TX	57	66	2,000	1,600	2,244	3,288
Oth Sts	62	--	1,090	510	1,364	--
Total	1,243	1,340	171,130	175,220	426,827	469,202

1/ Revised. (--) Included in other States to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

**Internet Access:** Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service (KASS) data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

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